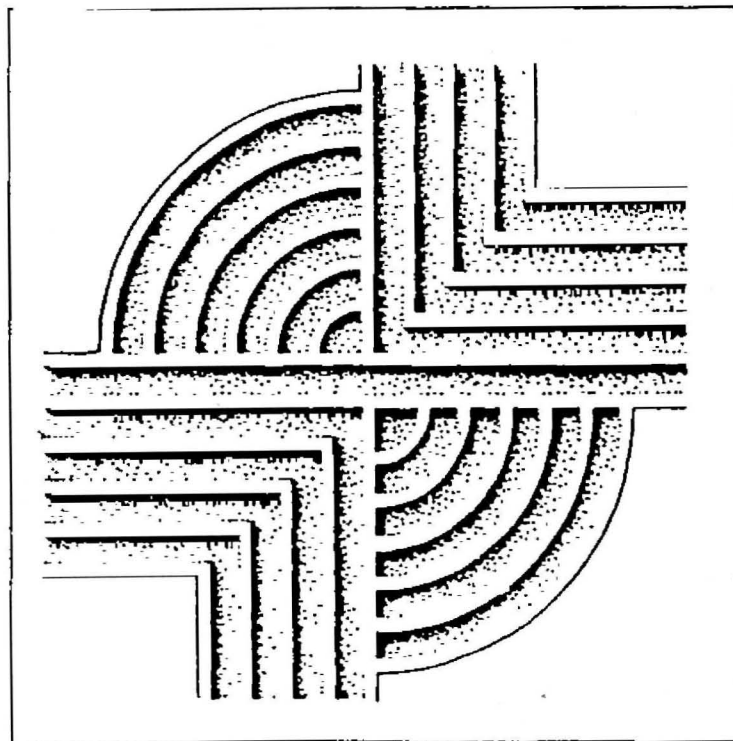


**PHOTOGRAPHS, SKETCH PLANS AND  
DESCRIPTIVE DATA FOR THE SPRINGFIELD/S&O  
CANAL FLOODGATES, CITY OF SAVANNAH,  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**



© 2001 by Chicora Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or transcribed in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission of Chicora Foundation, Inc. except for brief quotations used in reviews. Full credit must be given to the authors, publisher, and project sponsor.

Springfield/S&O Canal Floodgate  
North of Oglethorpe Street and east of Canal Street  
Savannah  
Chatham County  
Georgia

**PHOTOGRAPHS, SKETCH PLANS,  
AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Chicora Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8664 ■ 861 Arbutus Drive  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8664  
803/787-6910  
Email: [chicora1@aol.com](mailto:chicora1@aol.com)

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

**STATE**

Georgia

**COUNTY**

Chatham

**TOWN OR VICINITY**

Savannah

**HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)**

Springfield/Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Tidal Floodgate (City of Savannah, 1995)

**SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE**

Springfield Canal Floodgates

**COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)**

North of Oglethorpe Street and east of Canal Street in the Springfield Canal, City of Savannah, Georgia

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)**

ca. 1930 (oral history, City of Savannah)

**ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)**

Not known, thought to be WPA project

**SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)**

This structure was designed to control interior flooding associated with the Savannah-Ogeechee (S&O) Canal once it was no longer used for barge and ship traffic. It operates by allowing interior drainage to pass through the gates during the twice a day low tides, but prevents tidal flow further inland. The structure is thought to have been built as a WPA construction project, although only limited historical research (largely within the City's archives) has been conducted.

**STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)****MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEM)**

The side walls are cast-in-place concrete with steel reinforcement rods. The concrete has abundant rounded quartz pebble aggregate. The gates and integral hinges are cast brass/bronze with concrete poured around them. The gate structure exhibits a cold joint against the side walls, suggesting that it was cast-in-place, or moved into subsequently and locked in position using the steel band and bolts. The gates themselves are wood with a rubber seal around the edges. There appears to be a concrete base south of the gates, although no such base could be found to the north.

**SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)**

See attached sketch plans

**EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE**

Gates are unusual in that they are wood and not cast iron or aluminum. Construction of side walls with addition of gate section also seems unusual.

**INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE**

Not applicable

**MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES**

Steel I-beams were added to span the two side walls, likely with a timber deck, possibly later coated with approximately 2-inches of asphalt. These were added by chipping out notches in the side walls, locating the beams, and infilling around them with concrete. Subsequently these I-beams were cut out. The structure has also been modified by the addition of a sloping concrete retaining wall for the canal. Three of the four gates have been altered by the addition of steel cable used by city workers to manually open the gates from the cross walk when logs or other debris are caught in the gates. No dates are available for any of these alterations or repairs.

**PRESENT CONDITION AND USE**

The structure is currently in good condition with only minor erosion and damage to the side walls, and a stress crack along the west side wall. The structure is still in use to control interior flooding and prevent tidal flow up the canal.

**OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE**

Sketch plans, large format black and white photography, and color transparencies were compiled for this structure by Chicora Foundation in 1995 at the request of Thomas and Hutton Engineers.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)**

Site determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register and MOA prepared with ACHP, Army Corps of Engineers, and Georgia State Historic Preservation Office in 1995.

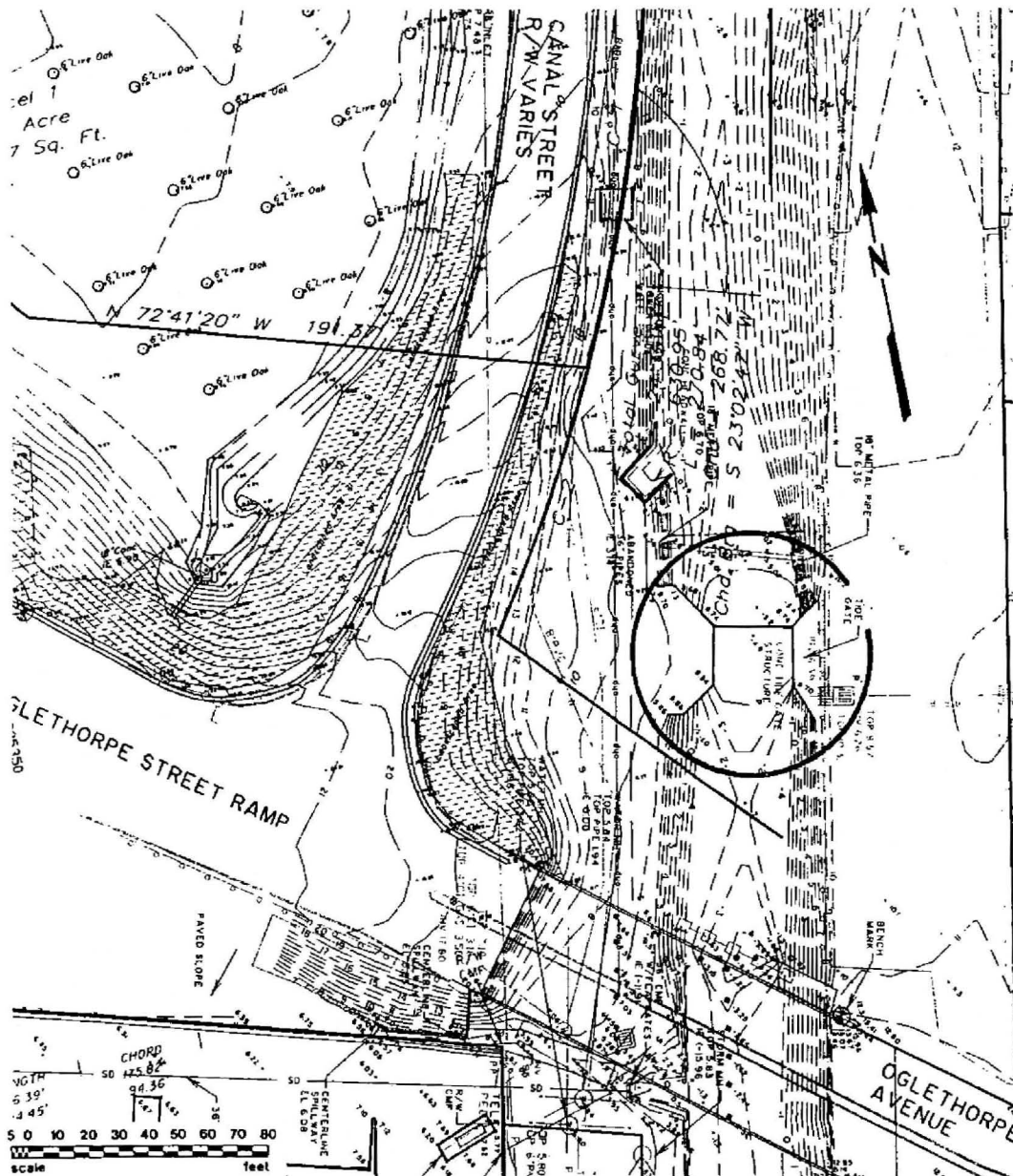
**COMPILER, AFFILIATION**

Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation, Inc., Columbia, SC

**DATE**


December 19, 1995

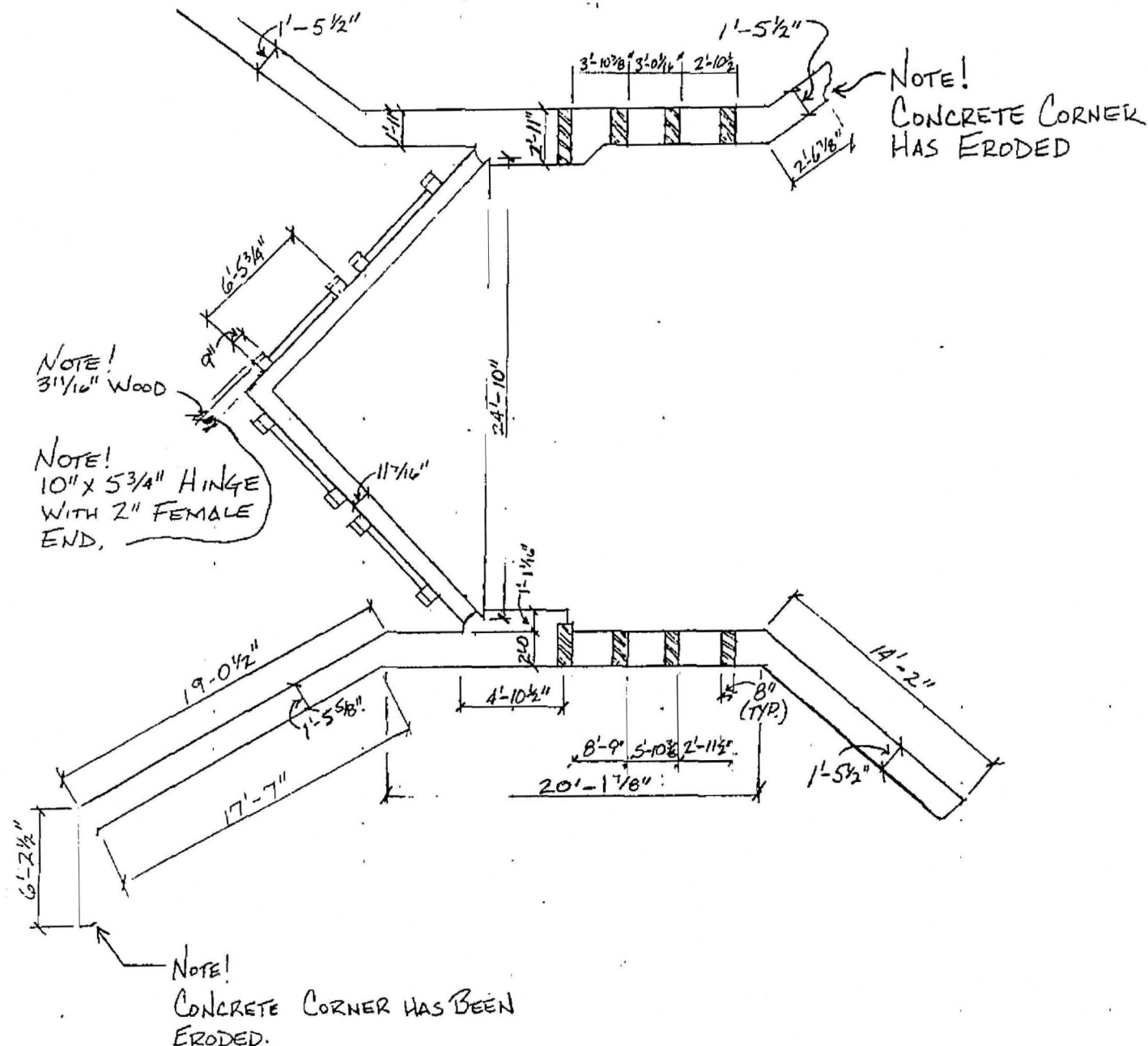
TAKEN FROM SAVANNAH, GA. INSET MAP, SEEGER MAP COMPANY, 1994  
UTM ZONE 17, E490360, N3549580



TAKEN FROM SITE PLANS PROVIDED BY THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERS,  
SAVANNAH, GA.

## SITE PLAN

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE	SURVEY NO.	CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC. COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA	
SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE PROJECT, 1995 CITY OF SAVANNAH SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE NORTH OF OGLETHORPE STREET AND EAST OF CANAL STREET  SAVANNAH CHATHAM COUNTY GEORGIA		SHEET 2 OF 5



LOCK PLAN VIEW

DRAWN BY: BILL DAVIES

SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL  
FLOODGATE PROJECT, 1995  
CITY OF SAVANNAH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

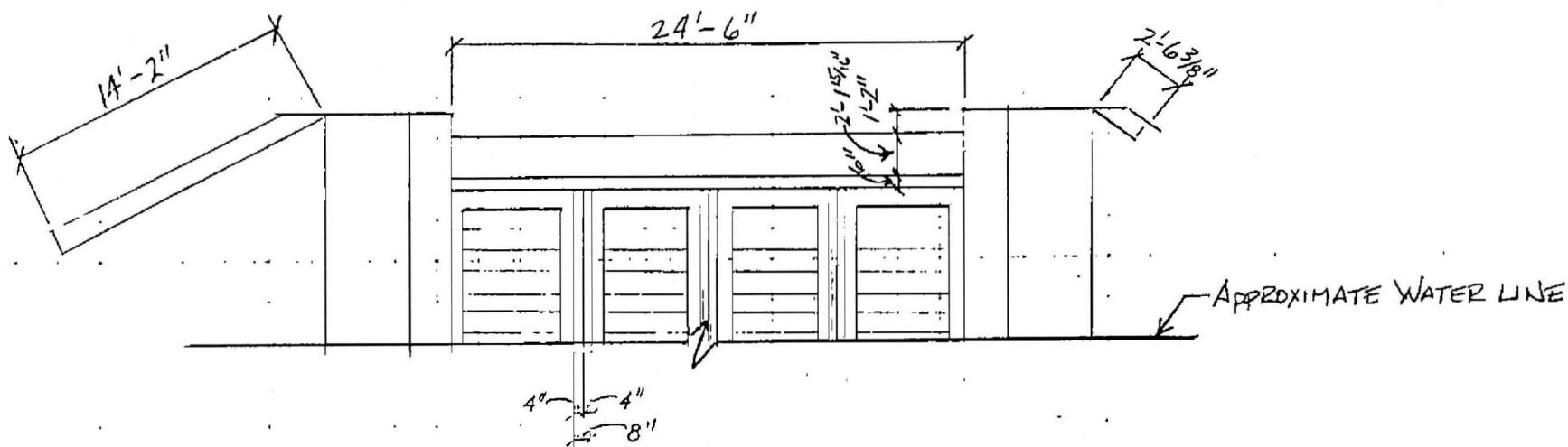
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE  
SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE  
NORTH OF OGLETHORPE STREET AND EAST ON CANAL STREET  
SAVANNAH CHATHAM COUNTY GEORGIA

SURVEY NO

CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA


SHEET 3 OF 5



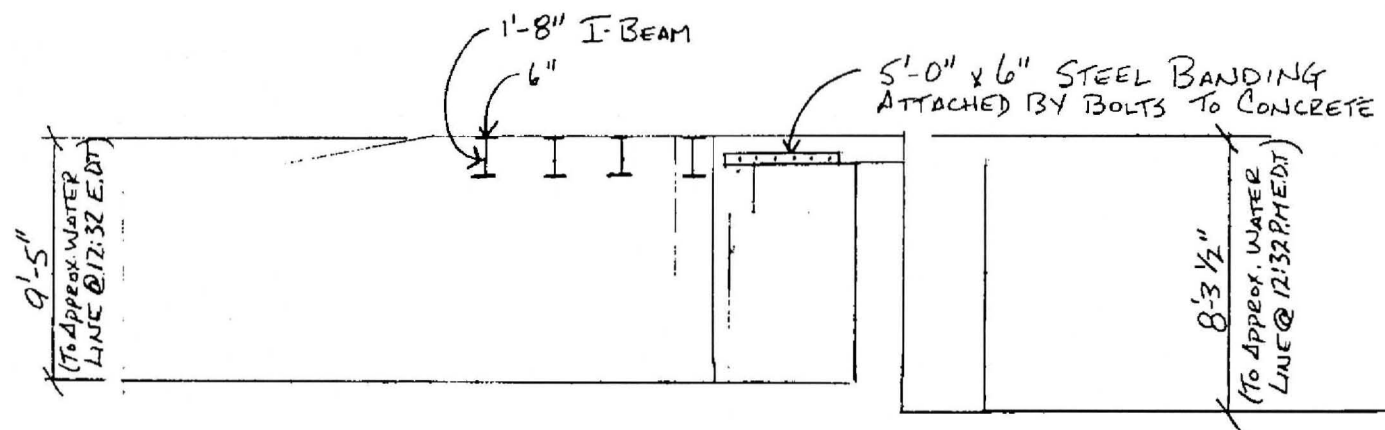


SOUTH ELEVATION (FROM BRIDGE) 1/8" = 1'-0"

DRAWN BY: BILL DAVIES


SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE PROJECT, 1995 CITY OF SAVANNAH SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE NORTH OF OGLETHORPE STREET AND EAST OF CANAL STREET SAVANNAH CHATHAM COUNTY GEORGIA	SURVEY NO	CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC. COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA SHEET 4 OF 5	
---	---	-----------	--	---





SECTION (FROM EAST BANK)  $1/8" = 1'-0"$

DRAWN BY: BILL DAVIES

SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE PROJECT, 1995 CITY OF SAVANNAH SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE SPRINGFIELD/S & O CANAL FLOODGATE NORTH OF OGLETHORPE STREET AND EAST OF CANAL STREET SAVANNAH CHATHAM COUNTY GEORGIA	SURVEY NO.	CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC. COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA SHEET 5 OF 5	
---	---	------------	--	---

# CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.

## INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

### SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATES

North of Oglethorpe Street and east of Canal Street,  
Savannah  
Chatham County  
Georgia

Sam Jones, Columbia, S.C. Photographer

December 18, 1995

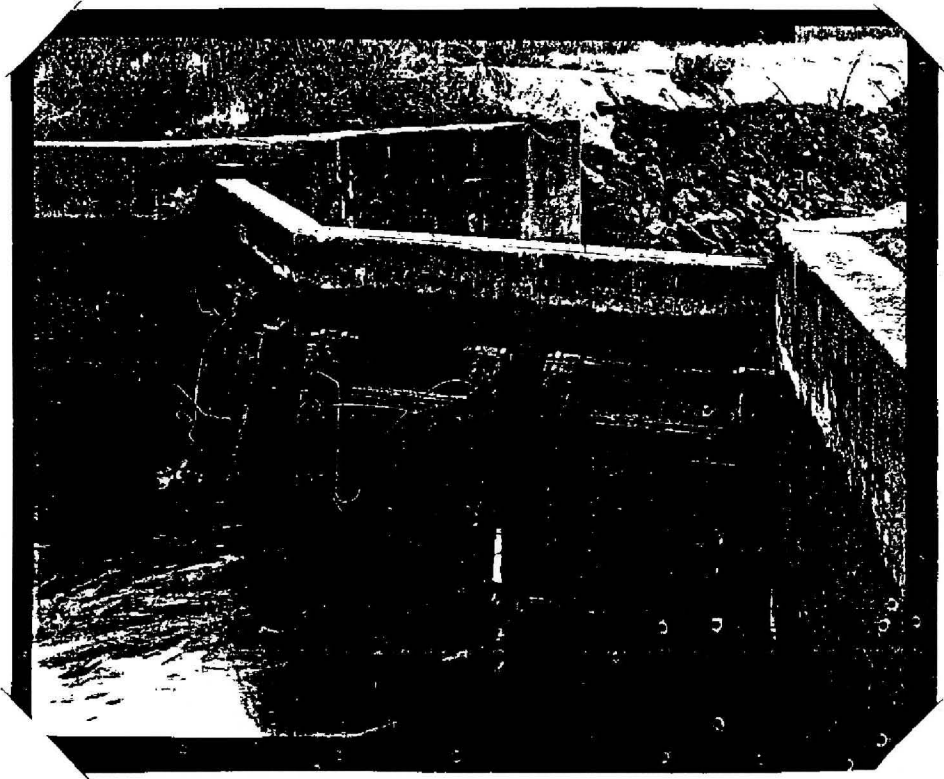
- 1 Oblique view of north elevation of gates from the west bank of the canal,  
taken as the tide was dropping (view is to the southeast)
- 2 Near frontal view of the north elevation of gates from the east bank of the  
canal, taken as the tide was dropping (view is to the southwest)
- 3 Oblique view of the south elevation of gates from the east bank of the canal,  
taken as the tide was approaching its lowest point (view is to the northeast)
- 4 Close-up view of the eastern side-wall from the gate platform, showing I-beams  
additions and iron band (view is to the east)
- 5 View of the south elevation of the gates from the Oglethorpe Street bridge,  
showing the canal in its overall context (view is to the north)
- 6 Close-up view of the western two gates from the west bank of the canal,  
taken at dead low tide (view is to the southeast)

### REMARKS:

A good view of the north elevation was not possible since the tide did not drop sufficiently low to allow entry into the canal during the photo shoot. On this day, even at low tide, the water north of the gates was ranged from 4½ to over 6 feet in depth, with an irregular bottom. Obstructions in the canal also prevented moving further northward. The water to the south of the gates was at least 4½ to 5 feet in depth. Consequently, the north elevation was shot from the east and west banks and the south elevation was shot from the Oglethorpe Street bridge. The view of the north elevation from the eastern bank is compromised by the presence of a fence and a large pipe crossing the canal.

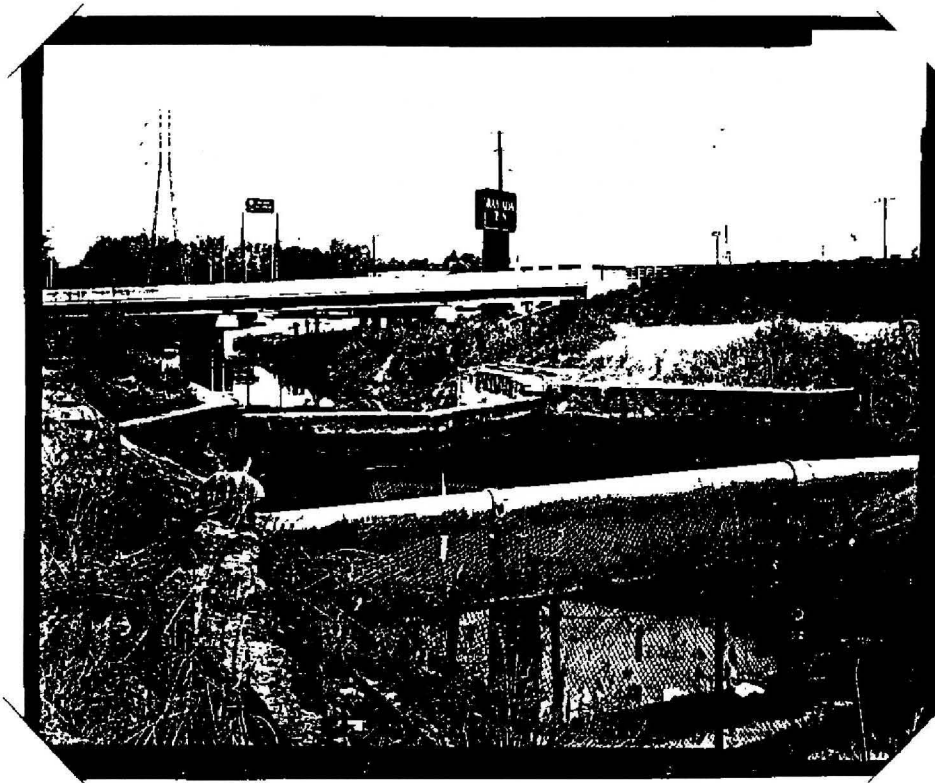
CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 1



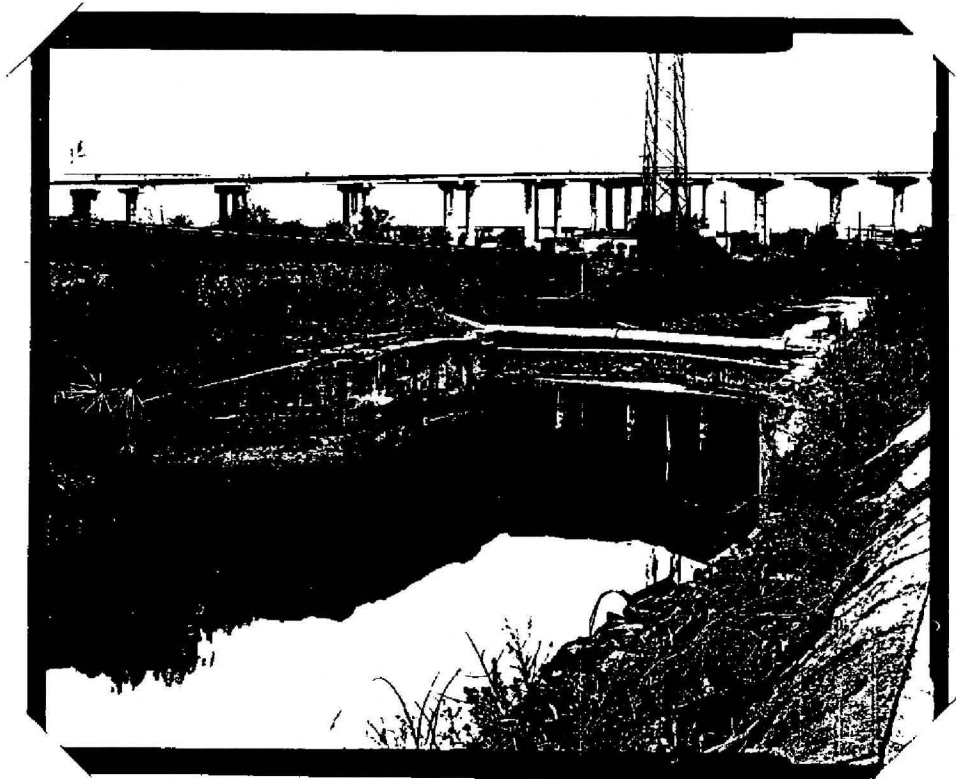
CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 2



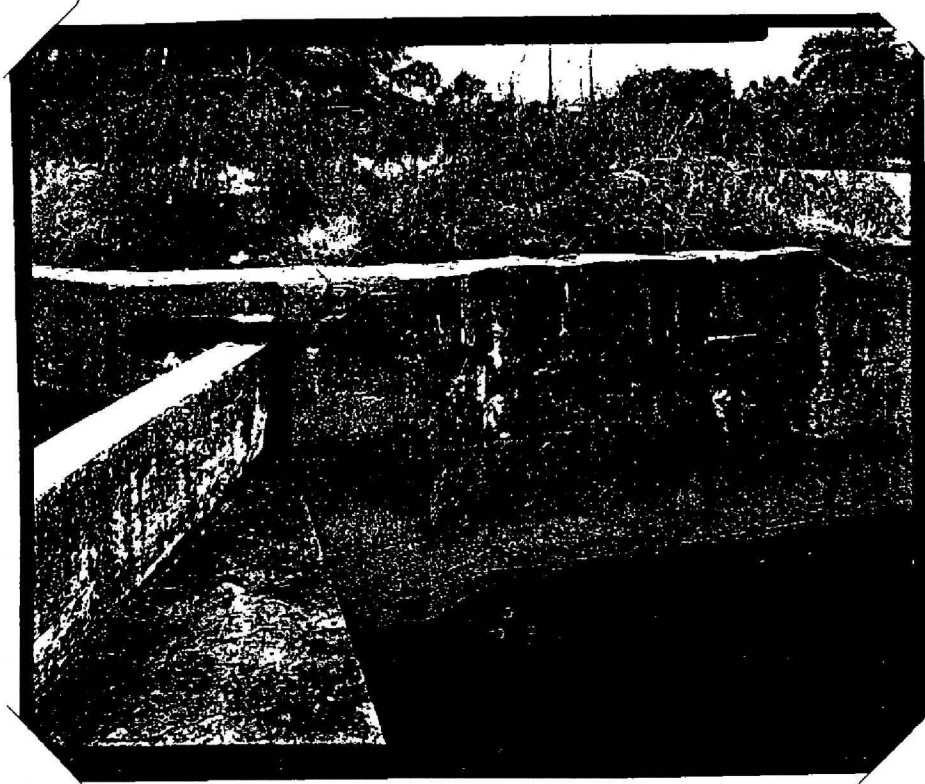
CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 3



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 4



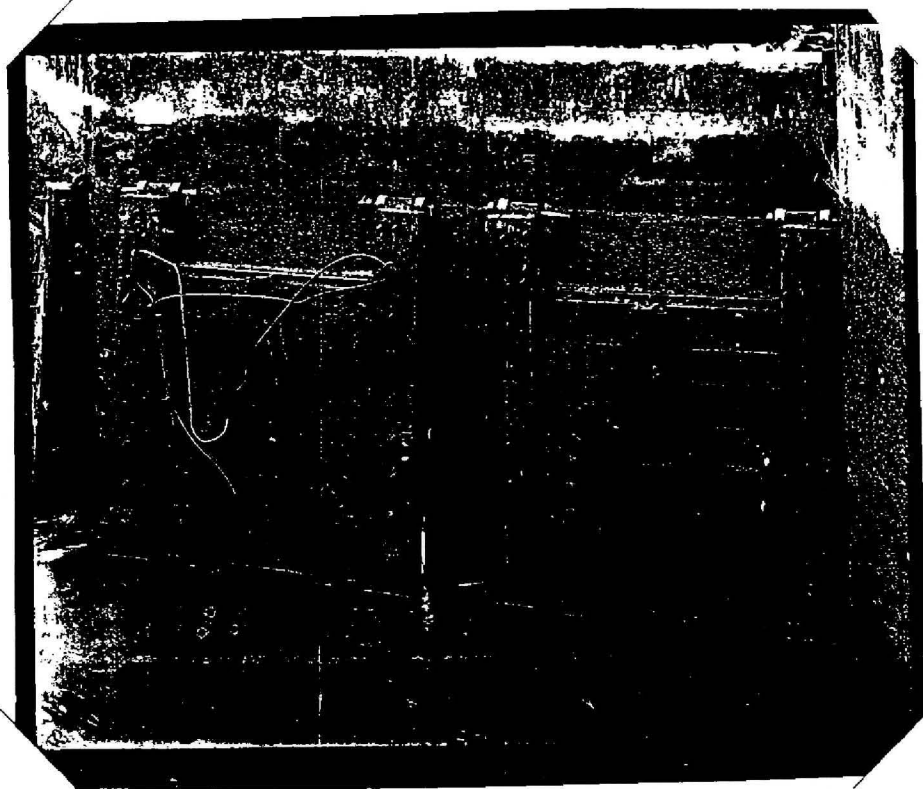
CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 5



CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.  
SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATE, 1995  
SEE INDEX TO B&W PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

VIEW # 6





# **CHICORA FOUNDATION, INC.**

## **INDEX TO COLOR TRANSPARENCIES**

### **SPRINGFIELD/S&O CANAL FLOODGATES**

North of Oglethorpe Street and east of Canal Street,  
Savannah  
Chatham County  
Georgia

Michael Trinkley, Columbia, S.C. Photographer

December 18, 1995

#### **Fujichrome (E-6 Processing):**

- 1      Setting up to photograph the eastern side wall (view to the east)
- 2      Oblique view of the north elevation from the west bank showing  
         the floodgates at low tide (view to the southeast)
- 3      Closeup of the western two floodgates from the west bank at low  
         tide (view to the southeast)
- 4      Closeup of the eastern side wall showing iron band and I-beams  
         (view to the east)
- 5      Oblique view of the south elevation from the east bank showing  
         the structure at low tide (view to the northwest)
- 6      Bill Davies taking measurements for sketch plans, showing the eastern  
         side wall (view to the south)

#### **REMARKS:**

**Archaeological  
Investigations**

**Historical Research**

**Preservation**

**Education**

**Interpretation**

**Heritage Marketing**

**Museum Support  
Programs**



**Chicora Foundation, Inc.**  
PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive  
Columbia, SC 29202-8664  
Tel: 803-787-6910  
Fax: 803-787-6910  
[www.chicora.org](http://www.chicora.org)